

**CHIEF JUVENILE COURT OFFICERS
LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATION FY2001**

1. Provide a 10% funding increase for these Graduated Sanction Programs:
 - A. Day Programming. FY2000 allocation \$5,329,371.00.
 - B. Adolescent Monitoring. FY2000 allocation \$4,027,123.00.
 - C. Life Skills. FY2000 allocation \$521,374.00.
 - D. School Based Supervision. FY2000 allocation \$2,791,660.00

Priority is emphasized for items A, B and C, as these programs have not had increases for three years. Day Programming is especially in need as it provides structured community based services for those youth deemed at high risk for placement. All programs have been helpful in relieving pressure on group care because of the programs' ability to provide preventive and after-care resources to children and family where none existed before the implementation of the group care cap in 1991.

2. Provide supplemental funding for transitioning 32 boys from Toledo that would match the level of treatment the boys are currently receiving at the Iowa Juvenile home.
3. Convert 32 boys' beds at Toledo to girls' beds so that recommended gender specific programming can be more fully implemented. As of 1/16/01, there were 48 females on the waiting list for Iowa Juvenile Home. Iowa Juvenile Home has a proven record of working with the most difficult females and has an on-campus accredited school with experienced teachers.
4. Continue to implement Empowerment Zones with the focus on the zero to five age group. It seems the efforts here are addressing the unmet needs in the communities.
5. Require that, when a sex offender is released from custody with an "at risk" or "high risk" assessment, the DCI will notify the County Attorney and the Sheriff where the individual will be residing. The County Attorney and Sheriff will assemble an appropriate committee to consider community notification.
6. Sunset the Court Ordered Services Planning Groups (IC232.141) as they no longer serve a legitimate purpose. Currently, each Judicial District, through it's Chief Juvenile Court Officer, administer a total allocation of \$3,290,000.00. this is allocated on a child population and past usage basis and is to be used whenever a service is authorized under IC232.141 and it has been determined that there are no other funds available to pay for this service. The Planning Group is mandated pursuant to HF 479, 1991 Acts, to meet at least quarterly and perform certain activities such as:

(2)

- A. establish priorities for spending,
- B. develop procedures to evaluate and improve the quality and effectiveness of services,
- C. make recommendations for changes in the child welfare system,
- D. ensure quality services at a reasonable cost,
- E. consider billing to make sure that no other payment source is available,
- F. submit an annual report to the State Court Administrator's Office and the Department of Human Services.

The District Chiefs and each District's Accountant/Auditor, with their knowledge of other payment sources and knowledge of whether or not clients are receiving quality services at a reasonable cost, and through the workers who request and review the services, can accomplish the objectives for the expenditure of Court Ordered Services money. The difficulties with Planning Groups are scheduling the meeting dates for members who can reside over different parts of the District and then have the time and resources to adequately fulfill all of the activities that are required. It is felt that the District Chief have performed well in ensuring that these funds have been utilized correctly and, as mandated, try to ensure that the funds last the entire Fiscal Year.

In closing on this point, Court Ordered Services allocations have not seen an increase in years, but the cost of services for transportation, psychological and substance evaluation, etc, have continued to increase. It is recommended that the committee seriously consider an increase of 5%; as once a District has used its allocation, we cannot provide any further Court Ordered Services.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Iowa District Chief Juvenile Court Officers

JDW/ljm